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Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

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COMMITTEE AGAINST TORTURE

GENERAL GUIDELINES REGARDING THE FORM AND CONTENTS OF INITIAL REPORTS TO BE SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES UNDER ARTICLE 19 PARAGRAPH 1, OF THE CONVENTION

Revised by the Committee at its 82nd meeting (sixth session) on 26 April 1991 */

Part I: Information of a general nature

This part should:

(a) Describe briefly the general legal framework within which torture as defined in article 1, paragraph 1, of the Convention as well as other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment are prohibited and eliminated in the reporting State;

(b) Indicate whether the reporting State is a party to an international instrument or has national legislation which does or may contain provisions of wider application than those provided for under the Convention;

(c) Indicate what judicial, administrative or other competent authorities have jurisdiction over matters dealt with in the Convention and provide information on cases actually dealt with by those authorities during the reporting period;

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*/ The Committee's revision consisted in the deletion from its guidelines of requests for information of a general nature which were already included in the consolidated guidelines relating to the preparation of the initial part of State party reports under the various international human rights instruments including the Convention (HRI/1991/1), sent to States parties by note verbale G/SO 221 (1) of 26 April 1991.

(d) Describe briefly the actual situation as regards the practical implementation of the Convention in the reporting State and indicate any factors and difficulties affecting the degree of fulfilment of the obligations of the reporting State under the Convention.

Part II: Information in relation to each of the articles in Part I of the Convention

This part should provide specific information relating to the implementation by the reporting State of articles 2 to 16 of the Convention, in accordance with the sequence of those articles and their respective provisions. It should include in relation to the provisions of each article:

(a) The legislative, judicial, administrative or other measures in force which give effect to those provisions;

(b) Any factors or difficulties affecting the practical implementation of those provisions;

(c) Any information on concrete cases and situations where measures giving effect to those provisions have been enforced including any relevant statistical data.

The report should be accompanied by sufficient copies in one of the working languages (English, French, Russian or Spanish) of the principal legislative and other texts referred to in the report. These will be made available to members of the Committee. It should be noted, however, that they will not be reproduced for general distribution with the report. It is desirable therefore that, when a text is not actually quoted in or annexed to the report itself, the report should contain sufficient information to be understood without reference to it. The text of national legislative provisions relevant to the implementation of the Convention should be quoted in the report.